AN ACCOUNT OF Mr. Blunts late Book, ENTITULED, King William AND Queen Mary CONQUERORS, Now under the Censure OF THE PARLIAMENT.

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An Account of

Mr. *BLUNT*'s late BOOK, &c.

Royal Prerogative is a ſubject of that nice and tender Quality, that 'tis undoubtedly an unpardonable Preſumption for any common unhallow'd Pen to touch. 'Tis not the Pretenſions of Zeal and Loyalty that takes up the Pen, that can apologize for the Bold Hand that guides it, any more than *Zimri* that held up the *Ark*. If an Examination of the Fountain and Boundaries of *Supreme Power* fall under any Cognizance, 'tis unqueſtionably in the *Legiſlative Body*. The opening the Cabinet of ſuch Records belongs to their Hands that keep the Key. If therefore the forementioned Preſumption, even ſimply conſidered, is an Offence of that high Nature, certainly the Tranſports of that mad Scribble that outruns all the Bounds of Truth and Reaſon, and Launches into thoſe unaccountable Miſtakes and Frenzies, as utterly to deſtroy the very Fundamentals of the Conſtitution, muſt deſerve a double Laſh. A more notorious Inſtance whereof has not been matcht in the late Licentious Pam-

phlet that has made ſuch a Noiſe in the Town, of which not only the Author but Licenſer have fallen under the juſt Diſpleaſure of our worthy Patriots in Parliament aſſembled; a Rebuke ſo proper from 'em, in a Cauſe where Their own and the Nations Honour is ſo highly concerned, and which deſerved a Repremand from no Leſs a Hand than Theirs.

'Tis the Boldneſs of that hardened Piece that we preſume in ſome few Remarks to examine; a Piece which certainly nothing but Infatuation (Infatuation the Pen-man's beſt Excuſe) could dictate. For beſides the egregious Unreaſonableneſs of the whole Foundation of that Diſcourſe, 'tis abſolutely impoſſible the Author in his Right Wits ſhould ever hope that ſuch a ſubject on ſuch a Baſis ſhould pleaſe any thing Living, himſelf only excepted.

For inſtance; Suppoſe it in the favourableſt Senſe, a well-meaning Loyal Harangue, with both theſe fair Aſpects, *viz.* Firſt, as intended a Court-ſervice to Their Majeſties, by fixing the Crown upon their Heads by ſo formidable a Right and Tenure as That of *Conqueſt*. And Secondly, Settling the Peoples Obedience in

in a firm and duteous Reſignation to the Sovereign Authority; founded on that Claim and Poſſeſſion: Yet both ways has the Author inſtead of the leaſt gaining his Point, utterly loſt his Aim.

For Example, He is ſo far from careſſing Their Majeſties in it, that 'tis poſſibly the courſeſt and moſt diſreliſhing Compliment (to give it no worſe Name) he could have pickt them out, in writing them **Conquerors.** That way of Acquiring a Crown being the remoteſt from their Thoughts from the firſt Step towards the Revolution, and through the whole Courſe of their Acceſſes and Advances to the Throne. The Prince's Declarations all utterly abjured any ſuch Pretenſion; nor indeed were the Forces he brought over a competent Strength for the leaſt Shadow of ſuch an Attempt. And though 'tis true, ſeveral contributing Providences, to our never to be forgotten Happineſs, all conſpired to enable the Gratitude of *England* to reward their Champion and Deliverer with the Preſentation of a Diadem; yet I am certain in his proudeſt Tryumph (par-

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don the Barbarity of that Epithet) he would have taken it very disdainfully to have been saluted with the Address of the Thief to *Alexander*, *viz.* to be Entituled that *Greatest of Robbers*, however otherwise glorious Name, a *Conqueror*. No; thanks to Heaven, a softer and gentler Coronation Glory, *Oblation* and *Gift*, not *Rapine* and *Violence*, incircled that Brow.

Non Rapit Imperium Vis tua, sed Recipit.

And if after all this, this doughty Penman has endeavoured to lay so ungrateful a Load upon the Royal Shoulders, he has made the most mistaken Piece of Work on't that Folly and Ignorance could ever be guilty of; at least if intended as a Favour.

Nor indeed is his intended popular Service herein a much more welcome Obligation, For

First, Here's the whole Glory of *England* totally eclips'd for ever, when a poor handful of 14000 Men, such wonderful Victors, could make so intire a Subjection of the little-hearted *Great Britain* with so much Ease, and so small Trouble.

'Tis

'Tis possible if such a Feather wou'd stick in the *Hollanders* Caps, there wou'd not want that Vanity in some of our *Hogan Neighbours*, that partly in Respect and Favour to their Royal *State-Holder*, and a little in pride to themselves, would perk up and plume with such a Title, As *Third William*, the *Second Conqueror*. And yet as matters stand, so much to the contrary, and so far from such a Thought, I fancy, there's not the poorest *Dutchman*, even in his very Ale, but has long since learnt better *English*; though our Enthusiastick *Englishman* this sober Author, has pleased so wilfully and so strangely to forget himself, and his Mother Tongue.

This *State-Casuist* little considers what a Blow he has given to the whole *English* Army, provided they are of that opinion as to joyn with him in Glorifying their Majesties with his Attribute of Conquerors. For their Martial Memorials will furnish but a poor homely Record, *viz.* That 25000 not one of them durst strick a stroke, nay, so many of them run off to the Prince of *Orange*; for all

this *Submiſſion* and *Deſertion*, to a Conquer-or, is down-right Dread and Terror, no Kindneſs and Inclination, which are only due to Gueſts and Friends. 'Tis well for him, that the Parliament by way of Civill Magiſtracy have taken him into Conſideration; for were he under Martial Judgment, I would not run his Gantlet, for twice the honor of being Author of his Pamphlet.

Nay the Parliament themſelves are not much in his Debt, I mean as to any over great kindneſs owing for Civilities received from him; for he has made bold to put a damnable Slurre upon the whole *Convention of England*: For at his rate of Faith, or Front rather; (for we hope he believes better things) they were all very impertinently buſy, in beſtowing of Imperial Crowns upon the Prince of *Orange*, when God knows they were his own before. For if he claimed by *Conqueſt*, having before that time the whole Power, every Fort, Town, Stengh, &c. thro all *England* in his hands; and conſequently the Univerſal ſubmiſſion of the Nation in yield-

yeilding all to this to him, the whole Royal *Regalia* of Conqueſt being then already his own, the Conventionary Donation was but Triffle and Mimickry: Nay, Their Majeſties themſelves are a little overſeen (if like our Author I may make ſo bold with them) in Commencing their Anniverſary of their Reign from the 13th of *February*.

In ſhort, the Confuſions ariſing from his Hypotheſis are too numerous to recite: All that we can think worth Commendation in it is, that he has made His Majeſty doubly a Conqueror. For Firſt belike he Conquered King *James*, and then himſelf: For notwithſtanding all the peculiar claims and priviledges of Conqueſt, he has intirely waved them all, and has ſat down contented with a plain *Engliſh* limited Monarchy, without aſſuming the leaſt Jewel of Conqueſt for adorning his Diadem.

'Tis true our Author bound himſelf to a more modeſt Circle in the notion of Conqueſt, his poſition being confined to this narrow Compaſs. *viz. That King* William *Conquered*

ed King James, but not the Nation; and that therefore he acquired a Title to all the Rights of King James, but not to any Rights of the Nation. That King James had a Right to Govern this Nation, but by being Conquered he loſt that Right, and in ſhort, King *William won it.* The buſineſs therfore of this ſhort Paper is to ſadom and examine the depth of this Poſition, being indeed the Grand Theſis of the whole Book.

Now to begin with the Incongruities in the very Foundation of his Diſcourſe: For *to Conquer a King and all his Rights*, and thoſe Rights being granted *to entend to his Government of his Kingdom*, and yet to make that diſtinct and wholly ſeparate from the Rights of the Nation, is ſo near to a contradiction that nothing poſſibly can be nearer, the Right of Governing over a People being at leaſt their higheſt and deareſt Concern, and the Conqueſt of that Right, and the Latitudes of Power annext to ſuch a Conqueſt, being undoubtedly their tendereſt and neareſt Conſideration.

Well

Well, as great as it was, King *William* conquer'd all this, which in every vulgar Apprehenſion, was conquering as much as King *James* had to loſe; a very fair Prize, let me tell ye, for by Birth-right, and all the ties of Succeſſion, his Right extended to the Supreme Adminiſtration of three Realms, as far as the Land-Marks of Law reach'd in the Rule and Sway of a limited Monarchy: A goodly Conqueſt, the Peoples unconquer'd Rights remaining, being only Duty and Obedience to their Soveraign Conqueror accordingly, which how far agreeing with the Circumſtances of Their Majeſties Acceſſion to the Crown will ſoon be examined:

If King *James* his Deſertion upon all the Premiſes ſuggeſted by this Author, *viz.* That, *ſeeing the Peoples Univerſal Inclination for, an Adherence to the Prince of* Orange, *Theirs and his Armies total Defection and Revolt, the Forces, Strengths, Gariſons, all things committed and yielded up to the Prince, and conſequently, all the Regalia of Conqueſt inveſted in him; and that thereupon, looking upon himſelf as a van-*

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quiſht Prince, he fled before the Conqueror, left London, *& retired to* Feverſham *in order to make his eſcape from Subjection, and being there taken Priſoner, attempted, and ſucceeded in his ſecond eſcape at* Rocheſter, *&c.* If all theſe Premiſes, I ſay, Intitule our preſent Soveraign to the Stile of *Couquerour*; by the ſame parallel Reaſons urged by this Author, I will as ſtrongly prove, that there never was a Change from the *Lancaſtrian* to the *York*, or from the *York* to the *Lancaſtrian* Line, in all the Succeſſions from the Conqueſt, but every ſuch Change equally might challenge the claim of Conqueſt.

For firſt, we muſt take it for granted, (and therein our Author agrees with us) that every poſſeſſing *Yorkiſt*, or *Lancaſtrian* Prince was lawfully King, more eſpecially if his Right was confirm'd by ſeveral unbroken Succeſſions in the ſame Deſcent and Family. And if ſo, undoubtedly, whatever conteſting Diſpute lay between the red and white Roſe, the Non-poſſeſſing Family had all their Pretentions ſwallow'd, and ſilenced in the Poſſeſſors prevaling Intereſt and Title.

Nearupon

Hereupon, ſuppoſing the poſſeſſing *Lancaſtrian*-Prince dies, as ſoon as the Breath is out of his Body, the whole Regalia, the Imperial Claims are all, *ipſo momento*, in the nex *Lancaſtrian* Heir: (for in that Senſe the King never dies) and therefore, ſuch Heir as rightfully King, upon the ſtarting up of a *York* Branch into the Throne, which cannot be done, but as the Prince of *Orange*'s Caſe, with the total Bent and *Byaſs* of the Peoples Inclination or Conceſſion at leaſt. (for what Motives or Reaſons perſwaded, it matters not) Here's the *Lancaſtrian* Right Heir, and as Heir, now rightful King of *England* diſpoſſeſt: And whether the Caſe exactly quadrate in all particulars with that of King *James*, viz. That the thus Diſpoſſeſt Abdicates, flies the Kingdom, or abſconds in it, at leaſt, he utterly runs before the prevaling Prince, and *Volens Nolens*, quits all Claim, to the poſſeſſing Arm of Power, perhaps more intirely in that point than King *James* has done. Nay, all this too (to parallel Circumſtances yet a little nearer) poſſibly after tougher & longer Diſputes then the

the *Two Battles* urged by the Author for *Preliminaries* to the *Prince's* Victory, *viz. The Skirmiſh at* Wincanton, *where Thirty of the Prince of* Orange's *Men defeated Seventy Horſe, and Fifty Dragoons under* Sarsfield; *and the other at* Reading, *where another Party of the Prince's kill'd Fifty of King* James's *Dragoons.* Now, I ſay, if ſuch Circumſtances as theſe are enough to make the Alienation of the Crown a Conqueſt, how many Crown'd Heads ſince Firſt *William* muſt write Conquerours! Nay, not in *England* only; for the whole *Chronicles* of all Nations would be ſwell'd with Revolutions that with full as much Reaſon would fall under that Denomination. For inſtance, The preſent King of *Portugal* may with full as much Right juſtifie the Title of Conqerour, his elder Brother his Predeceſſor, being unfortunately Delirious, and thereby guilty of Miſ-government, was by the People and the States of the Kingdom, removed, and expell'd from the Throne, and the younger Brother planted in his Seat, and not only made Poſſeſſour of his Brother's Kingdom, but of his Brother's Wife the Queen too.

And what matters the distinction between King *James* and the *Portugal* King's Misgovernment,, one through a crazed, and the other a Religious Frenzy, let it suffice both of them were laid aside, both their Subjects abandoned and deserted them, both were equally forced to Abdicate, and consequently both their Successors might claim an equal Title of *Conquerours*, only with a little Advantage on the *Portugal*'s side: For had our Author been his Historian, he must have added one little Jem more to his Diadem, then he has done to King *William*'s, for as belike *King* William *only conquered King* James, *the King of* England, *but not the People of* England, the *Portugal* Conquerour, in the like Conquest, out-shot him a whole Bows length, for he conquered both King of *Portugal* and Queen too.

In short, the extravagant Follies, and ridiculous Absurdities from such an Hypothesis would be endless, for granting King *William* was justly entituled Conquerour from that Hour he had King *James* in his Power, under Restraint and Subjection, as our Author terms it; by the same parity of Power and Subjection, there's never a civil Broyl or most unnatural Rebellion, to instance too many, where Kings have been often in the prevailing Subjects Power, but during that Mastery the Subjects, by his way of Reasoning, might stile themselves *Royal Conquerours*: For though as our Author distinguishes in our present Soveraign's Case, by the long recited Plea of Justice in his entring the Kingdom with an Armed Power; yet, in the forementioned Rebellious Inurrectio ns, the Prevalence of the Sword, whether in a

right or wrong Cauſe, may equally pretend to *Conqueſt*: This I am certain the *French* King makes no ſuch Diſtinction, and his very Enemies are pleaſed to write him Conquerour even in the vileſt of his Triumphs, the very Towns and Acquiſitions he has bought with his Levidores, and Conqueſt at beſt, how ſtrong ſoever a Title, is not the moſt ſparkling Crown Jewel.

But to leave this remoter Diſcourſe, I ſhall come to one intire and utter Confutation of our Author's whole Chain of Argument. The Prince of *Orange* was not properly the *Conquerour of King James* even in his own Reſtriction and Limitation of Conqueſt, *viz. The Conquerour of King James, but not of England.*

For Example, after King *James* had look't upon himſelf as a vanquiſht and an abandoned Prince, as he terms it; and therefore, whither out of ſhame of ſtanding a too critical Enquiry into his Male Adminiſtration, or detected Intreagues, refus'd the proffer'd Retreat of *Ham* Houſe; or out of any other Fear or Motive, deſerted his Kingdom, and fled, and eſcaped into *France*; yet even then was not the Prince of *Orange*, in his higheſt Power, any way King *James*'s Conquerour; for inſtead of his being Conquer'd, it then lay in the Breaſt of the whole People and Community of *England*, in *Convention* aſſembled, to have recall'd him back again, (that is, if ſo minded) to have treated him ſtill, as King of *England*, to have received and refixt him again on his Throne on ſuch and ſuch Terms and Articles of Security, for better Adminiſtration, and future Amendment, if any ſuch could have been hoped or expected, and the Prince all

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the while (though invited over by them, as their Deliverer) so far from claiming *Conquest*, or being his own Chooser, by Vertue of any such Pretension; that on the contrary, it lay wholely in the Peoples Breast, how far their Gratitude would reward their Protector of their Religion and Liberties.

So that upon the up-shot, If King *James* was *Conquer'd*, 'twas by his own fearful or wilful running away from his Kingdom, whereby the People Seizing his quitted, abandon'd, and relinquisht Crown into their own then Rightfull Possession, by such Disertion and Relinquishment, made a generous and grateful Present of it to their most Honour'd Champion, then fully and lawfully empour'd to accept so Glorious a Gift; insomuch, that if, according to our Author's Notion, there be any thing of *Conquership* in the Case, to Humour our Author's Fancy, it lies between King *James*, and the Victorious Convention; for King *William* and Queen *Mary* have the least, or rather no part at all of any such Claim or Challenge. And if there were any such thing as *Conquest* in the Case, alas, the *Conquering* blow was not given till the *Convention* was pleas'd to declare, the Imperial Crown of *England* was for such & such Causes devolved into theirs and their only Hands, and as such they were pleas'd to dispose it, where and to whom, as their indisputable Will and Pleasure seem'd Meet and Reasonable.

So that, to draw Matters towards a Conclusion, our Author has involved himself in the most unaccountable Labyrinth and Confusion, from his Chimerical distinction of Conquering King *James*, but not the Kingdom of

England, which ſtrictly examin'd, is little more than juſt nothing. For, How did he Conquer King *James*? Yes, he frighted his Perſon out of his Kingdom; (that is, if his own conſcious terrifying Faults did not do it for him) but as to his Crown, Title, Kingſhip, Royalty, thoſe he conquer'd not; all thoſe were purely and wholly the Conceſſion and Grant of the People, and no ways his own Atchivement or Acquiſition. So that, to ſum up the whole, in ſtiling our Gracious Sovereigns, King *William* and Queen *Mary* Conquerours in our preſent Circumſtances, he has given them a Title of neither Honour nor Service, for they hold both by a ſtronger and fairer Claim, derived from the Original Fountain of Power, the univerſal Donation of the People under the Poſſeſſion and Devolution aforeſaid, *&c.*

And thus this unhappily ſtarted Notion of Conqueſt-Tenure muſt not only be an ungrateful Theme to the Nation, as ſo notoriouſly derogating from the Glory of their own Act and Deed, the aforeſaid Donation of the Crown; but likewiſe, be a nauſeous and irkſome Apprehenſion to the *Engliſh* Peoples Conſtitution and Kidney, who are not poſſibly overfond of ſuch a Qualification of Imperial Majeſty reigning over them; and therefore, our Author has very unfortunately managed ſo untowardly an Argument, intended for the indearing and inducing a more Zealous Devotion and Obedience to their Majeſties, from ſo weak and ſo unattractive an Invitation, as the Title of Conquerours.

This Gentleman, take the whole Maſs of his Diſcourſe together, I muſt do him that right, has a very honeſt

honeſt Meaning. He has made it his Buſineſs to aſſert the Right of their preſent Majeſties in as vigorous a Manner as the warmeſt Zeal and Affection could Inſpire, has throughly evinced from his Poſitions laid down.

That King James *hath totally loſt his Right to theſe Kingdoms; and therfore, if he comes again with an Army, he is to be looked upon by the Subjects with no other Eyes than any other Invader, but is to be reſiſted by them. Our Fleets and Armies, without any ſcruple of Conſcience to weaken their Hands, may and ought to fight as becomes Valiant Men, in the defence of their preſent Soveraigns, and their Countrey; and that not only againſt the* French *King, but likewiſe againſt the late King* James, *if he ſhould come along with a Fleet, or head an Army againſt us.*

But after all, as there is no occaſion or want of the Claim of *Conqueſt*, either to ſtrengthen their Majeſties Intereſt, or weaken the Pretence of his Enemies, under what Name or Claſs whatever. All this Duty to the one, and Reſiſtance againſt the other, are equally, if not more ſtrongly enforced from that ſofter and gentler Royal Right, inveſted and lodged in Their preſent Majeſties, from the fore-mention'd clearer Fountain of Power.

F I N I S.